



# New Mexico Economic Update

January 28, 2016

## Summary

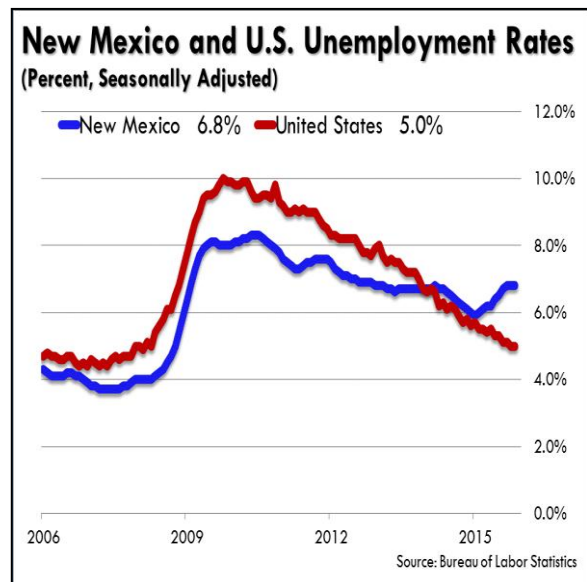
Nonfarm payroll employment in New Mexico decreased by 1,800 jobs and the unemployment rate decreased to 6.7 percent in December according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## New Mexico Unemployment Rate

During December, the unemployment rate in New Mexico decreased to 6.7 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed decreased by 900 in December to 61,200, while the labor force decreased by 2,500 to 912,200.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in New Mexico was 8.3 percent in July 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in New Mexico occurred in March 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 10.5 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in New Mexico was 3.7 percent in August 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in New Mexico occurred in August 2007 when the unemployment rate reached 3.7 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.0 percent in December. December's unemployment rate was 0.6 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2006.



## New Mexico Payroll Employment

New Mexico nonfarm payrolls decreased by 1,800 jobs, or 0.2 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during December. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 3,900. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in New Mexico increased by 2,600, or 0.3 percent. New Mexico nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

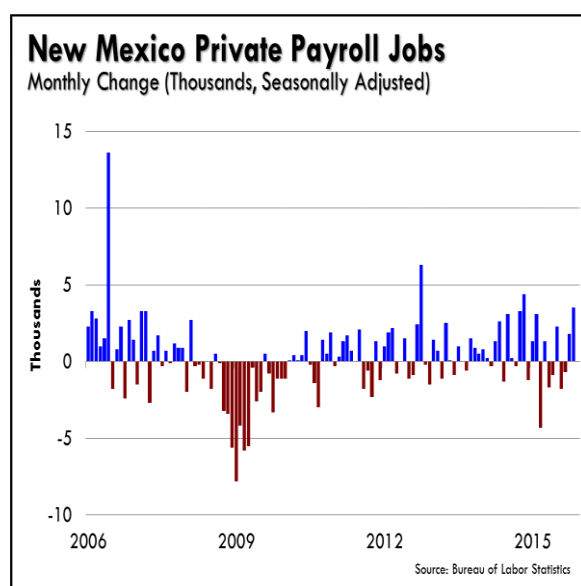
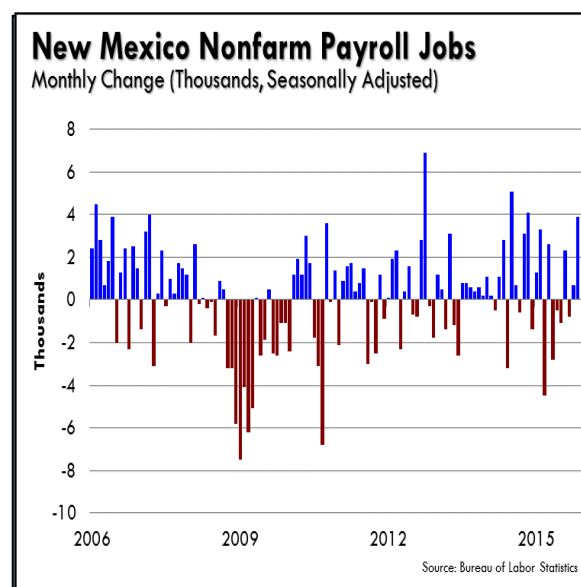
Nationally nonfarm payrolls rose by 292,000 in December, or 0.21 percent. Over the 12-month period ending in December 2015 nonfarm payrolls have increased by 2,650,000 jobs, or 1.9 percent.

During December, New Mexico private-sector payrolls decreased by 2,100 or 0.3 percent. Private-sector payrolls increased by 3,600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in New Mexico increased by 1,900 jobs, or 0.3 percent. New Mexico private-sector payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 275,000 in December, or 0.23 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,551,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.1 percent.

During December, total government payroll employment in New Mexico increased by 300, or 0.2 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.3 percent. State government payroll employment remained unchanged while local government payroll employment increased by 200, or 0.2 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 700 or 0.4 percent. State government payroll employment decreased by 100, or 0.2 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 500 or 0.5 percent.



The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during December were manufacturing (500) and leisure and hospitality (400). The poorest performing sectors during the month were trade, transportation, and utilities (-2,200) and construction (-600).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were leisure and hospitality (4,500) and education and health services (2,900). The poorest performing sectors for the year were trade, transportation, and utilities (-2,700) and construction (-1,500).

### Other New Mexico Labor Force Statistics

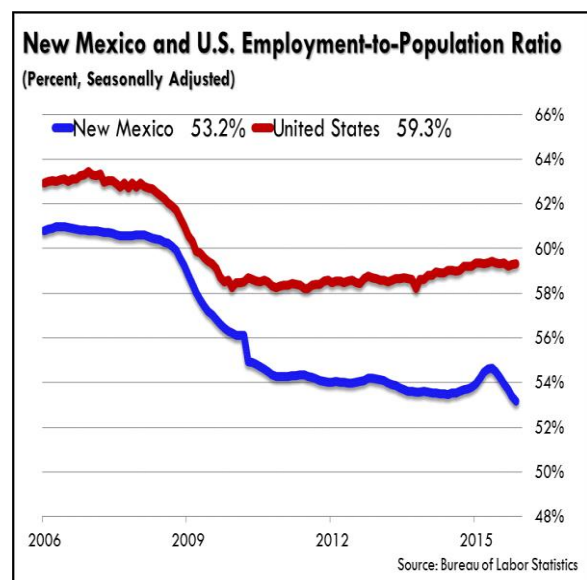
The labor force participation rate in New Mexico decreased to 56.9 percent in December. The labor force participation rate in New Mexico is decreased from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in New Mexico was 63.6 percent in August 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in New Mexico occurred in July 1990, when the labor force participation rate hit 64.1 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 56.9 percent in December 2015.

The national labor force participation rate increased to 62.6 percent in December. That rate was 0.1 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.6 percent, the labor force participation rate remains near its post-recession low.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the New Mexico civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, decreased to 53.1 percent in December.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in New Mexico was 61.0 percent in June 2006. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in New Mexico occurred in June 2006 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 61.0 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 53.1 percent in



December 2015. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in December 2015 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 53.1 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.5 percent in December. That rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier, and 0.1 percentage point higher than it was when the recession ended in June 2009. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for January is scheduled for release on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The national employment situation report for January will be released on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.